

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03

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R 231410Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 334

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE ECJ2

USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2377

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF FINAL IMPLEMENTATION OF SINAI I

I

REF: CAIRO 2235 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA DOMINATES ALL PAPERS FEBRUARY 23 AND COVERAGE OF FINAL DAY OF SINAI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS MODEST AND LOW KEY. AHRAM HAS LONGEST ARTICLE WHICH HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOWING POINTS MADE BY EGYPTIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN BRIG. HASAN AL-KAATIB:

"AS OF NOON FEB 22 SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS COMPLETED...WITH ENTRY OF EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES INTO
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SOUTHERN SECTOR WHERE MITLA AND GIDDI

PASSES ARE LOCATED.

"EGYPTIAN FORCES TOOK AREA OVER FROM UNEF AND PUT UP EGYPTIAN FLAG. THE HANDLING-OVER CEREMONIES WERE ATTENDED BY MAJOR GENERAL TAHA MAGDUB, CHAIRMAN OF THE SINAI LIAISON OFFICE.

"EGYPT'S EARLY WARNING STATION STARTED OPERATIONS AS OF NOON FEBRUARY 22."

2. GOE SPONSORED VISIT TO SINAI ON FEBRUARY 22 FOR OVER 100 FOREIGN AND EGYPTIAN CORRESPONDENTS WAS ABRUPTLY CANCELLED MORNING OF FEBRUARY 21 WITH NO EXPLANATION. WE UNDERSTAND GAMASY PERSONALLY CANCELLED IT AND ALSO DECIDED NOT TO GO HIMSELF AS HE HAD INITIALLY PLANNED TO DO.

3. COMMENT: CANCELLATION OF PRESS VISIT (WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY MINDEF GAMASY) AND LOW-KEY PRESS TREATMENT OF FINAL DAY OF DISENGAGEMENT AGAIN UNDERSCORE GOE AVERSION TO PUBLICITY ABOUT AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SINAI. FACT THAT US SINAI FIELD MISSION, WHICH BEGAN OPERATIONS AT NOON FEBRUARY 22, WAS NOT EVEN MENTIONED IN PRESS REFLECTS PARTICULAR EGYPTIAN SENSITIVITY AT HIGHEST LEVELS TO AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SINAI. THIS COME AS NO SURPRISE IN LIGHT CONTINUING SYRIAN MEDIA ATTACKS ON SINAI II AND CONSEQUENCES OF AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SINAI.
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